Coal import by MSEB

2494. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted Maharashtra State Electricity Board to import 3,75,000 tone coal, for their thermal power station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the quality of coal MSEB is importing is not available in domestic market; and

(d) if available, the reasons for the permission for import being granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Coal import is placed under Open General Licence (OGL) and therefore consumers are free to import coal and no permission is required to be obtained from Government to import coal. As informed by Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) as a short term measure, MSEB is importing 75,000 Metric tones of coal for Nasik TPS and 1,25,000 Metric tones coal for Koradi TPS during the period April-June, 2003.

(c) It is informed that the coal of low ash content being imported by Maharashtra is not available in India.

(d) Does not arise.

R&M and upgradation of sub-transmission relating to power sector in A.P.

2495. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether schemes of Renovation and Modernization and Upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution relating to power development were sanctioned to Andhra Pradesh in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and